

IN RE: CHRISTOPHER D. RAY

BBO # 692261

NO. BD-2025-041

Judgment (Disbarment) entered by Justice Wendlandt on September 17, 2025.¹

Lawyer disbarred as a result of a Petition for Reciprocal Discipline arising from an order of disbarment entered by the Supreme Court of New Hampshire following multiple violations of New Hampshire's Rules of Professional Conduct.

SUMMARY²

The respondent, Christopher D. Ray, is an attorney duly admitted to the bar of the Commonwealth on January 22, 2015. Effective July 16, 2024, the respondent was administratively suspended in Massachusetts for failure to cooperate with Bar Counsel's investigation in a separate matter. The respondent was also previously admitted to practice in the state of New Hampshire.

On January 14, 2025, the Professional Conduct Committee in New Hampshire filed a petition recommending the respondent's disbarment with the Supreme Court of New Hampshire. The petition was based on violations of New Hampshire's Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1, 1.3, 1.15, 8.1, 8.4 (a) and (c). On May 20, 2025, the respondent was disbarred by the State of New Hampshire Supreme Court, effective immediately.

Bar Counsel filed a Petition for Reciprocal Discipline against the respondent with the Supreme Judicial Court on May 27, 2025. On September 16, 2025, the Supreme Judicial Court conducted a hearing on the petition. The respondent did not appear. On September 17, 2025, the Supreme Judicial Court issued a Judgment of Disbarment against the respondent, effective immediately.

¹ The complete order of the Court is available by contacting the Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County.

² Compiled by the Massachusetts Board of Bar Overseers' Office of General Counsel based on the record filed with the Supreme Judicial Court.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SUFFOLK, SS.

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
FOR SUFFOLK COUNTY
NO: BD-2025-041

IN RE: Christopher D. Ray

JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT

This matter came before the court, Wendlandt, J., on a petition for reciprocal discipline pursuant to S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 16, filed by the Office of Bar Counsel on May 27, 2025. Appended to the petition was a copy of a May 20, 2025, order of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire on the recommendation of the Professional Conduct Committee, disbarring the respondent, Christopher D. Ray, from the practice of law in the State of New Hampshire.¹

On May 27, 2025, an order of notice issued and was served on the respondent in the manner specified by S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 21, directing him that an answer be made within thirty days of service setting forth reasons, if any, that the identical discipline would be unwarranted in

¹ The respondent presently is suspended from the practice of law in the Commonwealth for his failure to cooperate with bar counsel's investigation of a separate matter pursuant to S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 3 (2). See Order of Administrative Suspension, BD-2024-084, entered July 2, 2024 (Budd, C.J.).

Massachusetts. The respondent did not file an answer; nor has he responded to multiple inquiries by the First Assistant Clerk regarding waiver of hearing. As such, on August 21, 2025, an order pursuant to S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 16 (1), issued directing the Office of Bar Counsel to provide notice to the respondent to appear at a hearing before the court on September 16, 2025, so that he "may then show cause" why the relief sought in the May 27, 2025 petition for reciprocal discipline should not be granted.

The hearing took place as scheduled. At the hearing, assistant bar counsel represented to the court the attempts made by her office to notice the respondent of the hearing at various addresses associated with the respondent (home, office, and email) in accordance with S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 16 (1). The respondent did not appear.

Upon consideration of the foregoing, it is **ORDERED** that:

1. that Attorney Christopher D. Ray is hereby disbarred from the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the lawyer's name is stricken from the Roll of Attorneys. The disbarment shall be effective immediately from the date of the entry of this Judgment.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that:

2. Within fourteen (14) days of the date of entry of this Judgment, the lawyer shall:

a) file a notice of withdrawal as of the effective date of the disbarment with every court, agency, or tribunal before which a matter is pending, together with a copy of the notices sent pursuant to paragraphs 2(c) and 2(d) of this Judgment, the client's or clients' place of residence, and the case caption and docket number of the client's or clients' proceedings;

b) resign as of the effective date of the disbarment all appointments as guardian, executor, administrator, trustee, attorney-in-fact, or other fiduciary, attaching to the resignation a copy of the notices sent to the wards, heirs, or beneficiaries pursuant to paragraphs 2(c) and 2(d) of this Judgment, the place of residence of the wards, heirs, or beneficiaries, and the case caption and docket number of the proceedings, if any;

c) provide notice to all clients and to all wards, heirs, and beneficiaries that the lawyer has been disbarred; that he is disqualified from acting as a lawyer after the effective date of the disbarment; and that, if not represented by co-counsel, the client, ward, heir, or beneficiary should act promptly to substitute another lawyer or fiduciary or to seek legal advice elsewhere, calling attention to any urgency arising from the circumstances of the case;

d) provide notice to counsel for all parties (or, in the absence of counsel, the parties) in pending matters that the lawyer has been disbarred and, as a consequence, is disqualified from acting as a lawyer after the effective date of the disbarment;

e) make available to all clients being represented in pending matters any papers or other property to which they are entitled, calling attention to any urgency for obtaining the papers or other property;

f) refund any part of any fees paid in advance that have not been earned; and

g) close every IOLTA, client, trust or other fiduciary account and properly disburse or otherwise transfer all client and fiduciary funds in his possession, custody or control.

All notices required by this paragraph shall be served by certified mail, return receipt requested, in a form approved by the Board.

3. Within twenty-one (21) days after the date of entry of this Judgment, the lawyer shall file with the Office of the Bar Counsel an affidavit certifying that the lawyer has fully complied with the provisions of this Judgment and with bar disciplinary rules. Appended to the affidavit of compliance shall be:

a) a copy of each form of notice, the names and addresses of the clients, wards, heirs, beneficiaries, attorneys, courts and agencies to which notices were sent, and all return receipts or returned mail received up to the date of the affidavit. Supplemental affidavits shall be filed covering subsequent return receipts and returned mail. Such names and addresses of clients shall remain confidential unless otherwise requested in writing by the lawyer or ordered by the court;

b) a schedule showing the location, title and account number of every bank account designated as an IOLTA, client, trust or other fiduciary account and of every account in which the lawyer holds or held as of the entry date of this Judgment any client, trust or fiduciary funds;

c) a schedule describing the lawyer's disposition of all client and fiduciary funds in the lawyer's possession, custody or control as of the entry date of this Judgment or thereafter;

d) such proof of the proper distribution of such funds and the closing of such accounts as has been requested by the bar counsel, including copies of checks and other instruments;

e) a list of all other state, federal and administrative jurisdictions to which the lawyer is

admitted to practice;

f) the residence or other street address where communications to the lawyer may thereafter be directed; and

g) any and all bar registration cards issued to the lawyer by the Board of Bar Overseers.

The lawyer shall retain copies of all notices sent and shall maintain complete records of the steps taken to comply with the notice requirements of S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 17.

4. Within twenty-one (21) days after the entry date of this Judgment, the lawyer shall file with the Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County:

a) a copy of the affidavit of compliance required by paragraph 3 of this Judgment;

b) a list of all other state, federal and administrative jurisdictions to which the lawyer is admitted to practice; and

c) the residence or other street address where communications to the lawyer may thereafter be directed.

By the Court, (Wendlandt, J.)


Allison S. Cartwright, Clerk

Dated: September 17, 2025